

REMARKS

There are now pending in this application Claims 1, 2 and 4 through 9, of which Claims 1 and 9 are independent. Claim 3 has been cancelled without prejudice or waiver of the subject matter. Claim 9 is newly added.

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance of the above application is respectfully sought.

Applicant submits herewith a replacement sheet for Figure 13 in which Figure 13 has been labeled as prior art. Favorable consideration and acceptance of the new drawing is respectfully sought.

Applicant's acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's indication that Claims 3 and 8 recite patentable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. As the Examiner will appreciate, Claim 1 has been amended so as to incorporate the subject matter of Claim 3. Claim 1 is therefore now in condition for allowance. New Claim 9 is directed to an image forming apparatus which is believed to incorporate all of the features of dependent Claim 8 and the claims from which it depended. Claim 9 is therefore understood to be patentable over the art of record and conditions for allowance.

The remaining claims in the above application are dependent claims which depend either directly or indirectly from Claim 1 and are therefore patentable over the art of record for reasons noted above with respect to Claim 1. Addition, each recited features of the invention is still further distinguishing it from the applied art. Favorable and independent consideration thereof is respectfully sought.

Applicant respectfully submits that all outstanding matters in the above application have been addressed and that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the above application are respectfully sought.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicant
Lawrence A. Stahl
Registration No. 30,110

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

LAS\gmc

DC_MAIN 181718v1